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HOWDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1941.

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HOWDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Howden Rural District Council.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1941.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1—Area (in acres) 69,963.

2—Estimate of the average population of the area during 1941—12,300.

3—Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1941, according to Rate Books—3,372.

4—Rateable Value—£34,921.

5—Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£135 13s. 6d.

The chief Industry throughout the district is Agriculture; other employment being provided by the Flax Mill, Ouse Chemical Works, the Creosote Works, Brickyards, Railways, and Market Gardening.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

A part-time Medical Officer of Health, who acts as Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

A full-time Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor, with certificates A.R.San.I. and M.S.I.A.

A Matron and two Fever trained Nurses at the Isolation Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	150	80	70
Illegitimate ...	17	9	8
Total ...	167	89	78
Still Births—Legitimate ...	6	4	2
Illegitimate ...	1	1	0
Total ...	7	5	2

Birth Rate for the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 population—13·6.

Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population—14·2.

DEATHS.

	M.	F.	Total.
All Deaths during 1941	75	69	144

Death Rate per 1,000 population—11·7.

Death Rate per 1,000 population, England and Wales —12·9.

Howden Rural Area :—

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—0.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—1.

Maternal Mortality in the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Births :—

Puerperal Sepsis	0.
Other Puerperal Causes ...	5·1.
Total	5·1.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales per 1,000 Births :—

Puerperal Sepsis	... ...	·48.
Other Puerperal Causes	...	1·75.
Total	... ...	2.23 per 1,000 Births.

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—7.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Births—41·9.

England and Wales per 1,000 Births—59.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—21.

Deaths from Measles—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)—0.

Deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages)—4.

Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)—0.

These Vital Statistics show that the Health of the Howden Rural Area is very good. The Birth Rate exceeds the Death Rate by 1·9 per 1,000.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

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LABORATORY FACILITIES. — All examinations of Clinical Material are carried out at the Laboratory of the Hull Royal Infirmary, and are available to all practitioners in the Rural Area at the combined expense of the Rural District Council and the County Council.

In addition to this, the travelling Laboratory at Pocklington has been very helpful with emergency examinations.

During the past year the following tests were made :—

Diphtheria—Primary Swabs	... ...	33
Positive	... ...	6
Negative	... ...	27
Tuberculosis—Primary Examinations		16
Positive	... ...	2
Negative	... ...	14
Other Primary Examinations	...	10

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—In the early part of the year 1,250 children in the Rural Area were immunised against Diphtheria.

In addition to these, about 250 had already been immunised, so that altogether 1,500 children, or roughly 65 per cent., have been protected.

Arrangements have been made so that if parents require their children to be protected, it is only necessary for them to see their own Doctor about it.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—An Ambulance for the conveyance of patients to hospital is available at Beverley.

Ambulances for their own cases are kept at the Isolation Hospital, and the Goole Bartholomew Hospital.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—An Infant Welfare Centre was re-opened in Howden in January, 1938, and has been very well attended. It is very satisfactory that the advantages of the Centre are being so well appreciated.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—During the year 1936, the Midwives' Act came into operation, and Midwives were appointed to attend cases in definite districts, so that a Maternity Nurse is available for any case within the Howden Rural Area. This is a great improvement, of which full advantage should be taken.

HOSPITALS.—In Howden Town a Public Assistance Institution for the sick poor, and an Isolation Hospital with 30 beds for Infectious Diseases. Shipton Hospital is available for Small Pox cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The County Sanatorium at Raywell, and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Selby.

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.—Goole, Selby, York, Hull, and Leeds. There is no ambulance available for the conveyance of patients to any hospital, except the Goole Bartholomew Hospital ambulance, which is only available for patients admitted to that Institution.

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NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following Notifications of Infectious Diseases were received :—

	1941	1940.
Scarlet Fever	48	32
Diphtheria	9	38
Whooping Cough ...	46	14
Erysipelas	4	2
Measles	106	245
Pneumonia	16	38
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	1

SCHOOLS.

All Schools are under the County Council, with the exception of one small private school in Howden. Reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Medical Officer of Health of absentees from school suffering from Infective Sickness.

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WATER.

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The consumption of water in the Area continues to increase, showing that its benefits are appreciated.

During the war, there is a possibility of water mains being damaged by bombs; a warning is necessary as regards the possibility of contamination of the water supply.

So long as the water in the mains is under pressure, the possibility of contamination is negligible. If, however, it is necessary to cut off the water for repair, contaminated material will ooze into the broken system, and it will be necessary to run a considerable amount of water to waste, to clear out this possible source of disease.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WIGGLESWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.